

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

1. (Original) A storage system comprising:

a channel unit that transfers data sent from an upper-level system and transfers data to said upper-level system;

a cache unit which is connected to said channel unit and in which data sent from said channel unit is stored;

a plurality of control units that is connected to said cache unit, and transfers or receives data to or from said cache unit;

a disk device in which data sent from said plurality of control units is stored; and

a plurality of paths, one of said paths connecting each control unit to said cache unit, wherein

a number of said paths linking said plurality of control units and said cache unit equals a number of said plurality of control units.

2. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of paths includes a first path that links a first control unit included in said plurality of control units to said cache unit, and a second path that links a second control unit included in said plurality of control units to said cache unit.

3. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path and said second path are independent of each other.

4. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path is dedicated to communication between said first control unit and said cache unit.

5. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 4, wherein said second path is dedicated to communication between said second control unit and said cache unit.

6. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein among said plurality of paths, a path linking said cache unit and a predetermined control unit included in said

plurality of control units is not the same as a path linking said cache unit and an other control unit included in said plurality of control units.

7. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path directly links said first control unit to said cache unit.

8. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 7, wherein said second path directly links said second control unit to said cache unit.

9. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path links said first control unit and said cache unit on a point-to-point basis.

10. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 9, wherein said second path links said second control unit to said cache unit on a point-to-point basis.

11. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said disk device includes a plurality of disk drives, and said plurality of control units is connected to said plurality of disk drives.

12. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of paths are signal lines linking said cache unit and said plurality of control units.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of paths are used to write data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from said ~~plurality of~~ cache units unit to said disk device, and used to ~~communicate~~ communicate data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from said ~~plurality of~~ cache units unit to said plurality of control units.

14. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of paths are used to read data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said disk device, and are used to communicate data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said control unit to said cache unit.